

Conservation Planning Overview

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Defenders of Wildlife



Outline

- n What are we trying to do for biodiversity?*
- n What conservation planning is out there?*
- n What are the trends?*
- n What is in Arkansas?*
- n What do transportation planners need?*

Biodiversity At Risk

***1,311 Threatened and Endangered
species in the U.S. (66% found on
private lands)***

***More than 15,000 Globally Imperiled
species in the U.S. (NatureServe)***

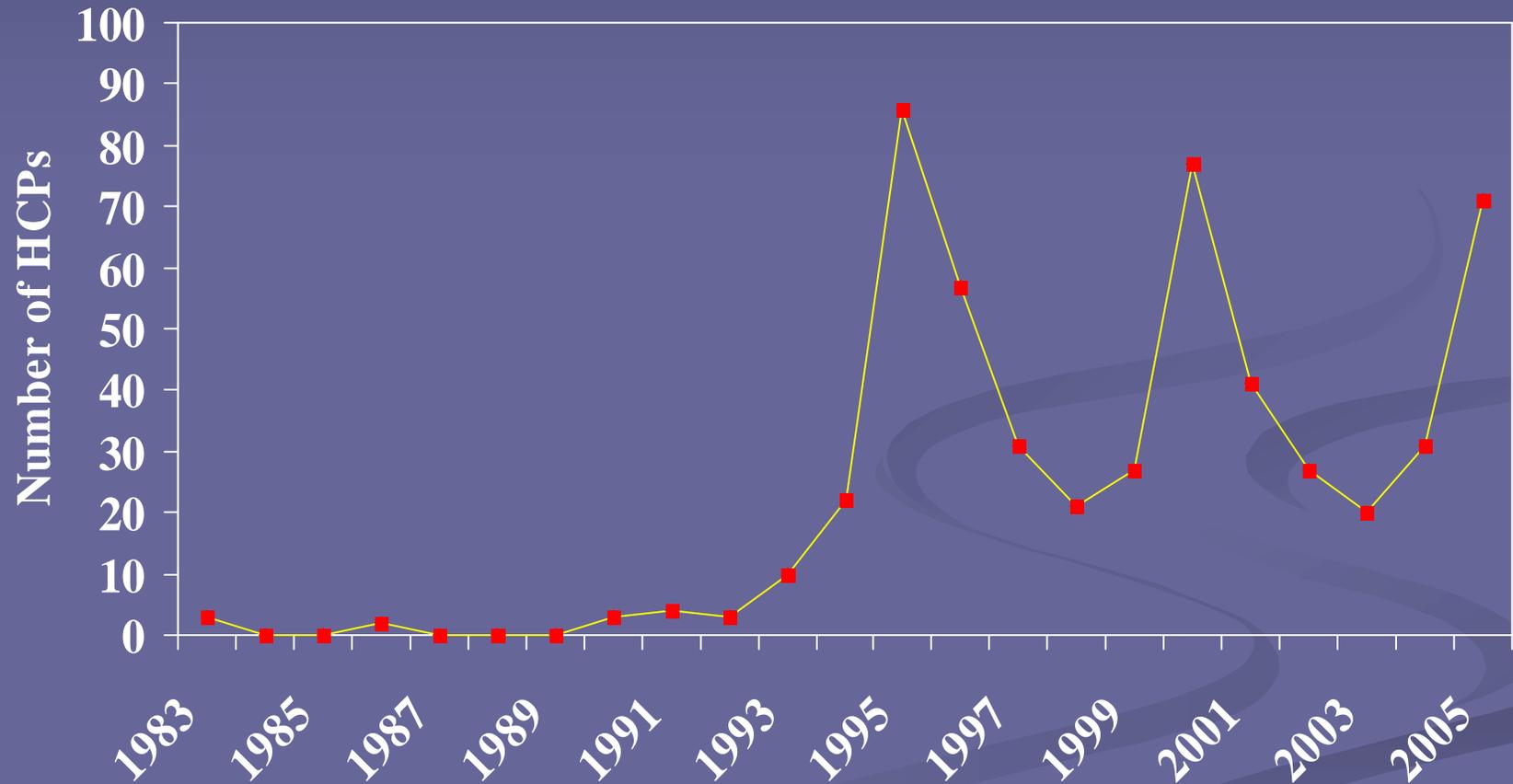
Endangered Species

- n Recovery Plans***
- n Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)***
- n Safe Harbors***
- n Candidate Conservation Agreements (CCAs)***

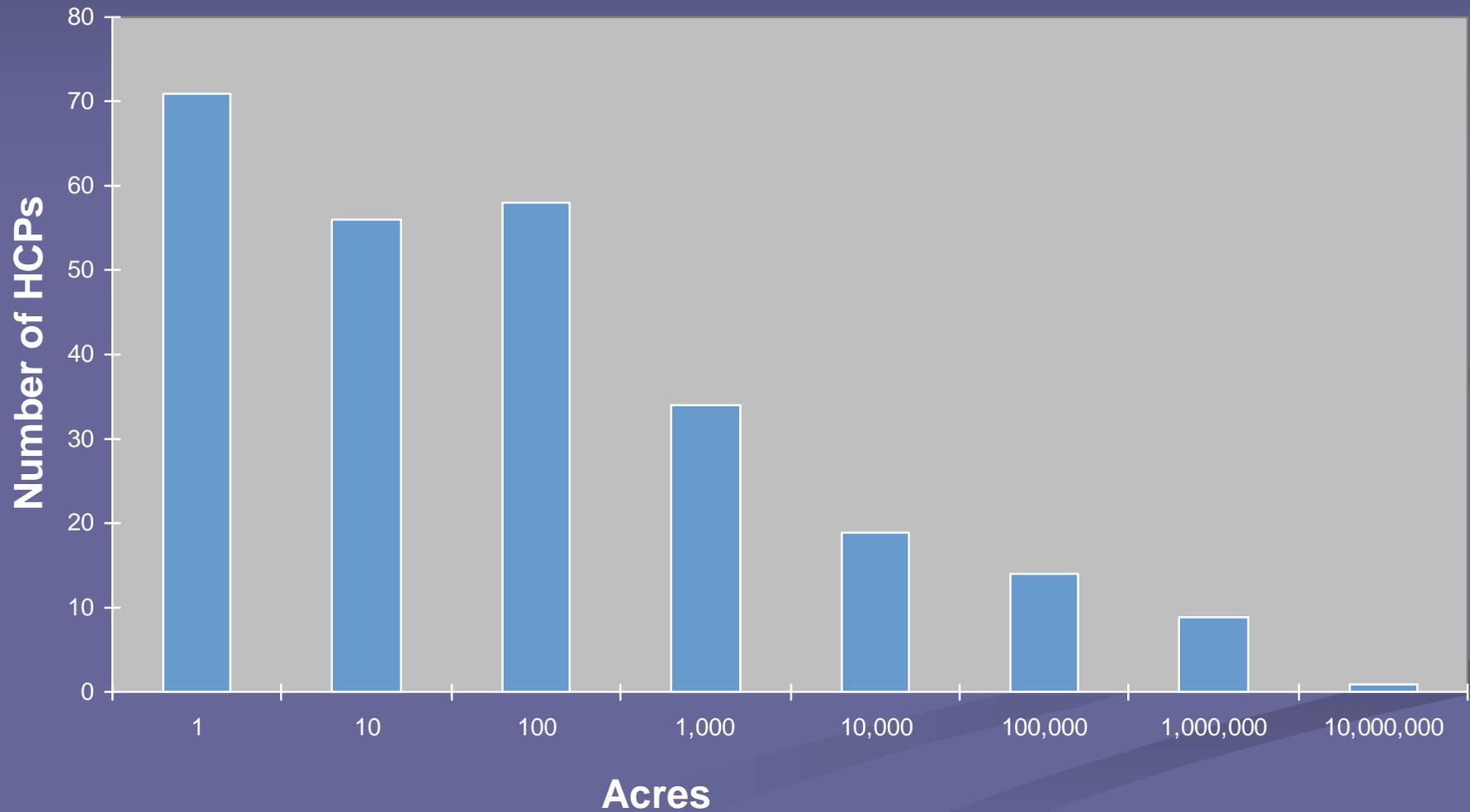
Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs)

- n Permitting program for destruction of habitat for endangered species in exchange for protection elsewhere***
- n HCPs involve minimization and mitigation of harm to species***
- n Applies to non-federal landowners***

HCPs Approved Per Year

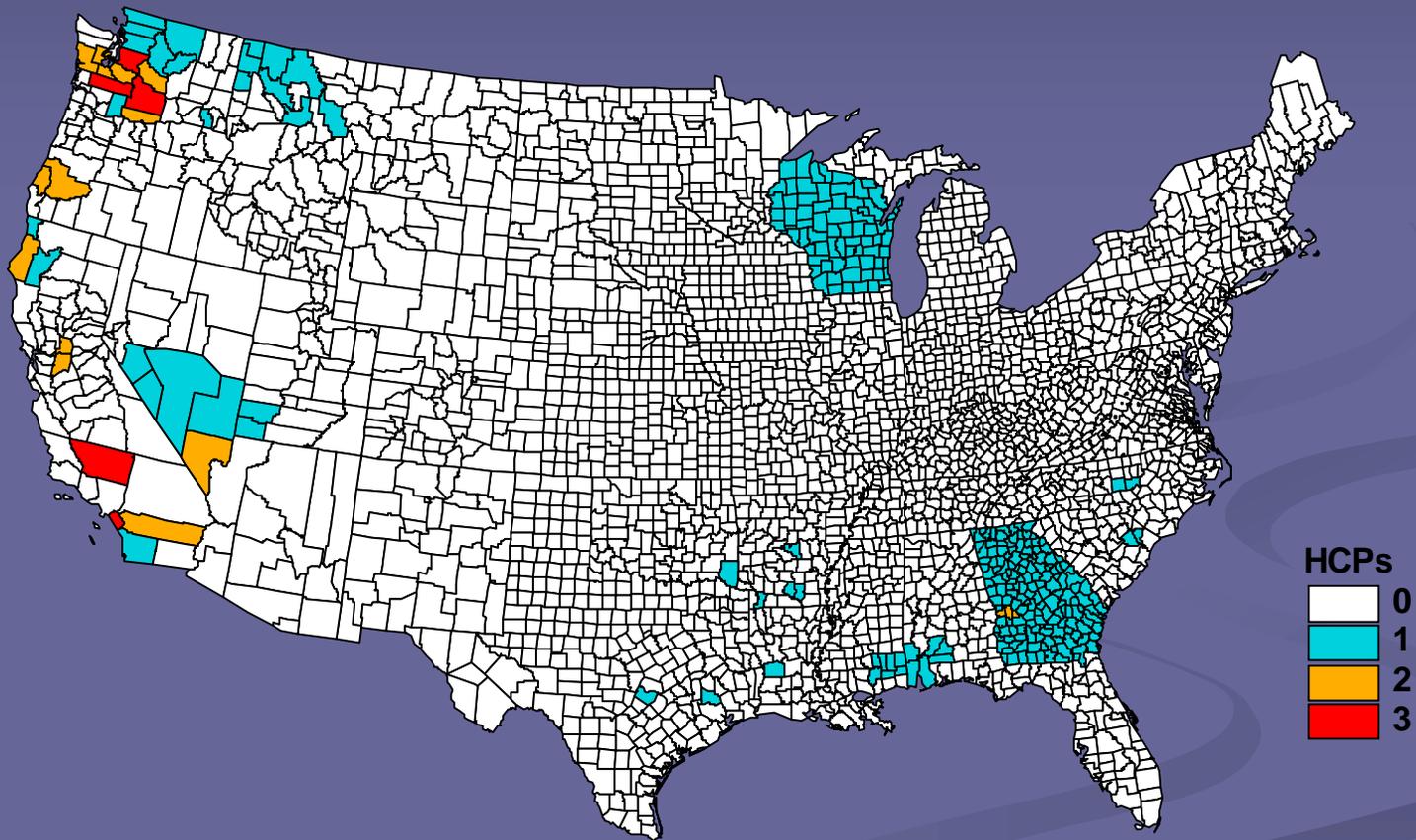


Size of HCPs



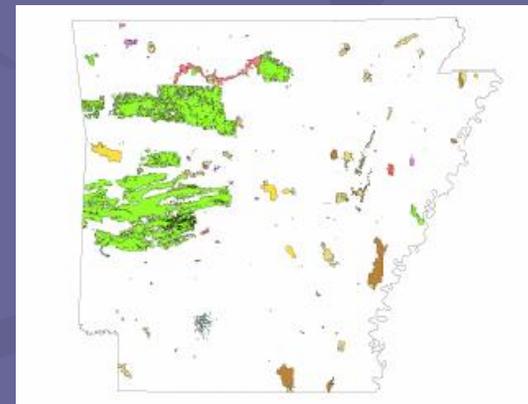
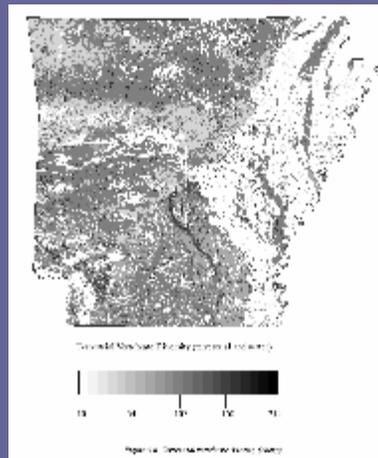
Defenders of Wildlife, May 2006

Large Acreage HCPs



GAP Analysis

- n *Goal: Keep Common Species Common*
- n *Statewide (38) and regional (3)*
- n *Vegetation and animal distribution*
- n *Gaps in protection*



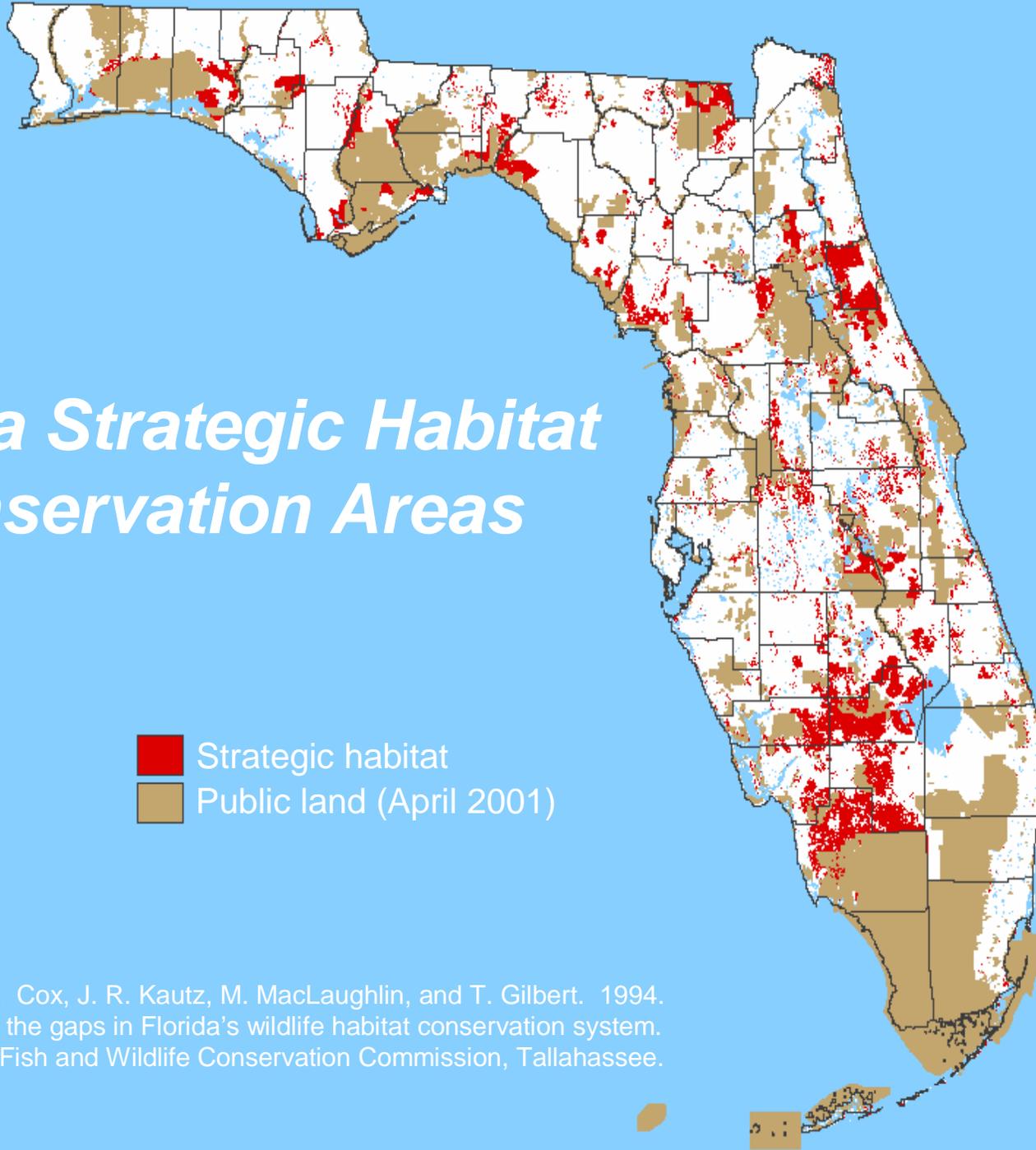
Taxa or Habitat Specific Plans

- n North American Waterfowl Management Plan***
- n Partners in Flight Plans***
- n U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan***
- n North American Waterbird Conservation Plan***
- n North American Bird Conservation Initiative***

Florida Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas

-  Strategic habitat
-  Public land (April 2001)

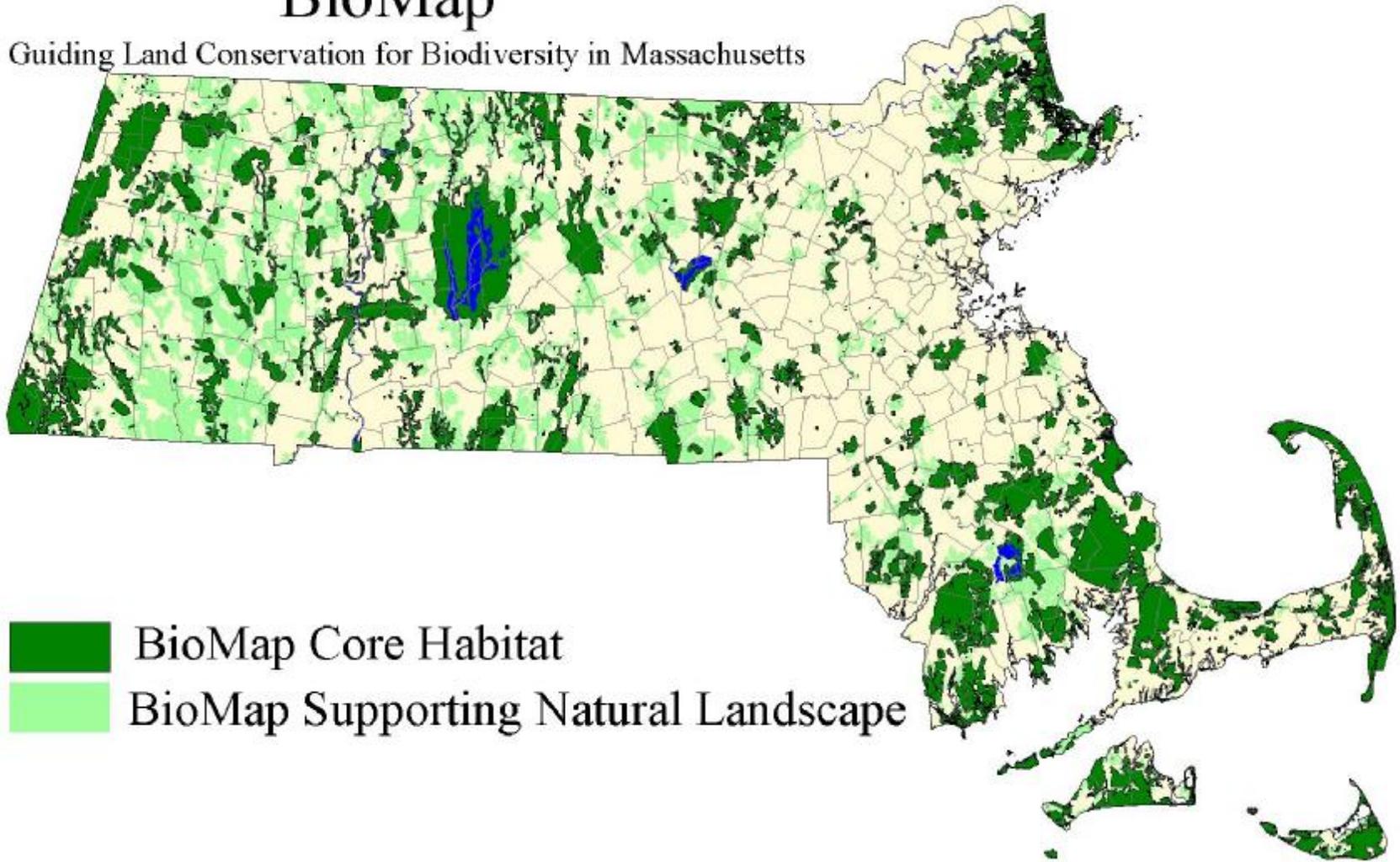
Source: Cox, J. R. Kautz, M. MacLaughlin, and T. Gilbert. 1994.
Closing the gaps in Florida's wildlife habitat conservation system.
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Tallahassee.



Massachusetts Statewide Plan

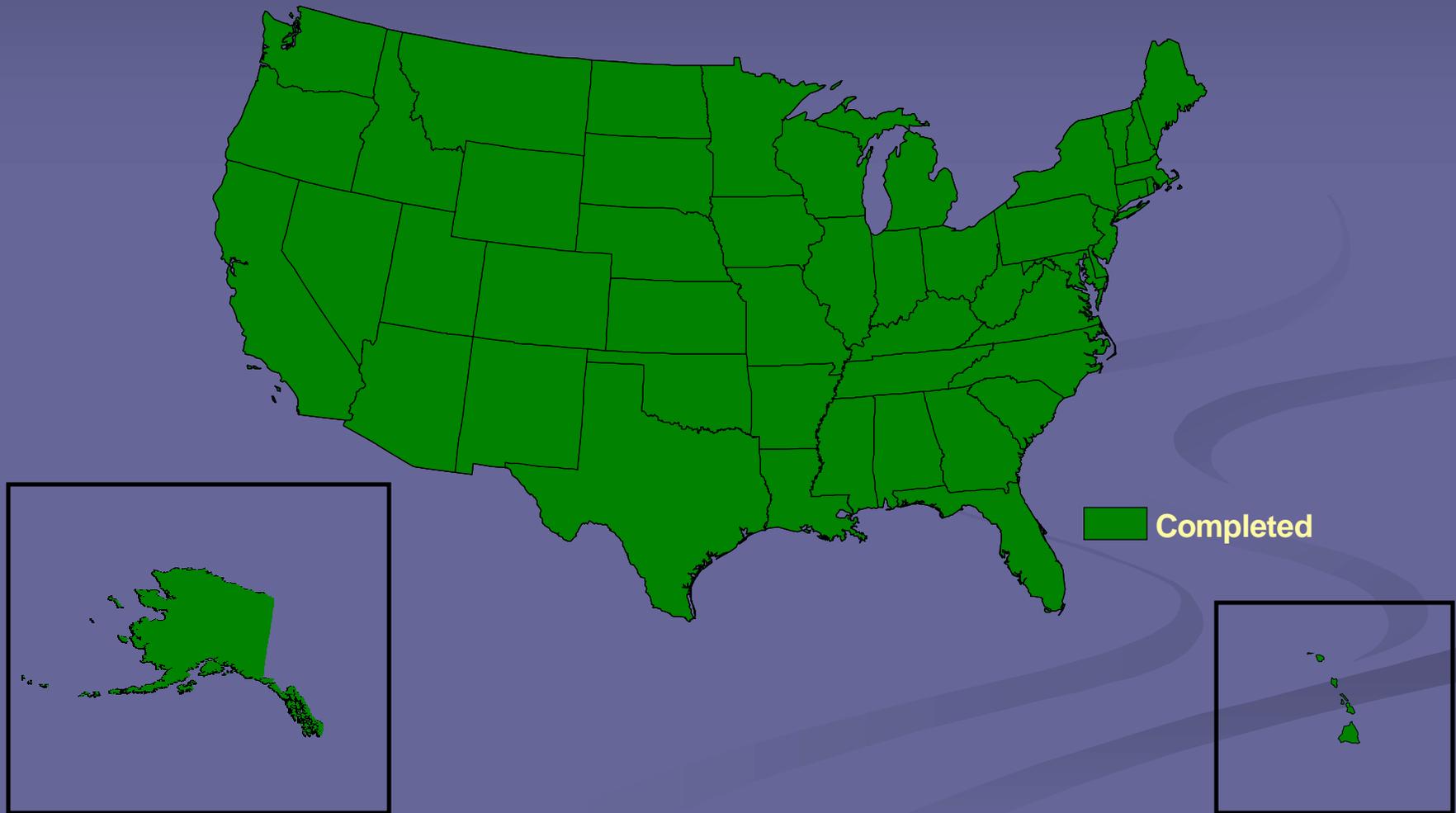
BioMap

Guiding Land Conservation for Biodiversity in Massachusetts



State Wildlife Action Plans

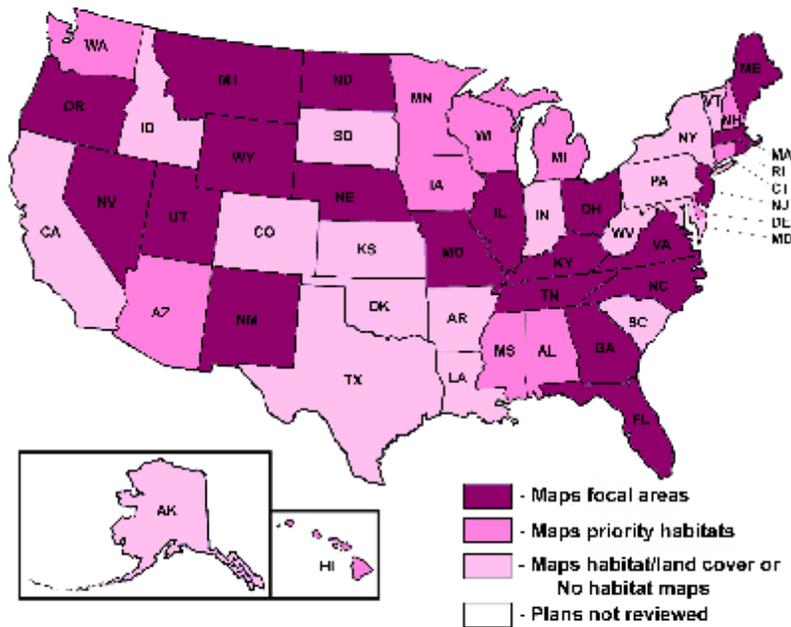
October 2005



Habitat Conservation: Mapping is Key

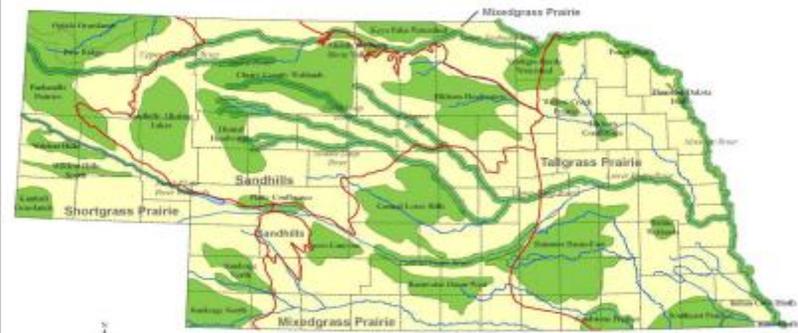
STATE WILDLIFE PLANS: PRIORITY MAPS

Winter 2006



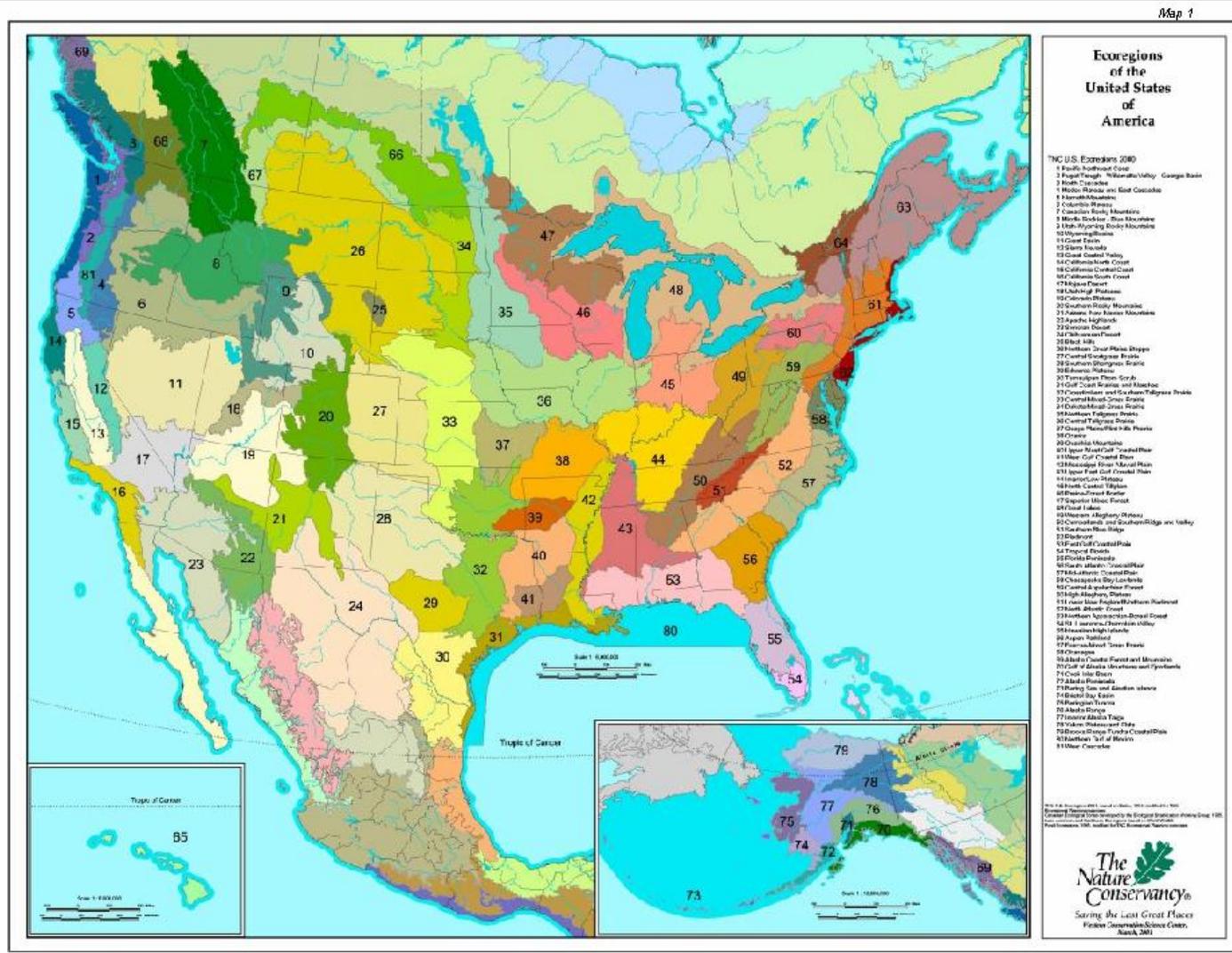
40% of States produced maps showing conservation focal areas

BIOLOGICALLY UNIQUE LANDSCAPES IN NEBRASKA

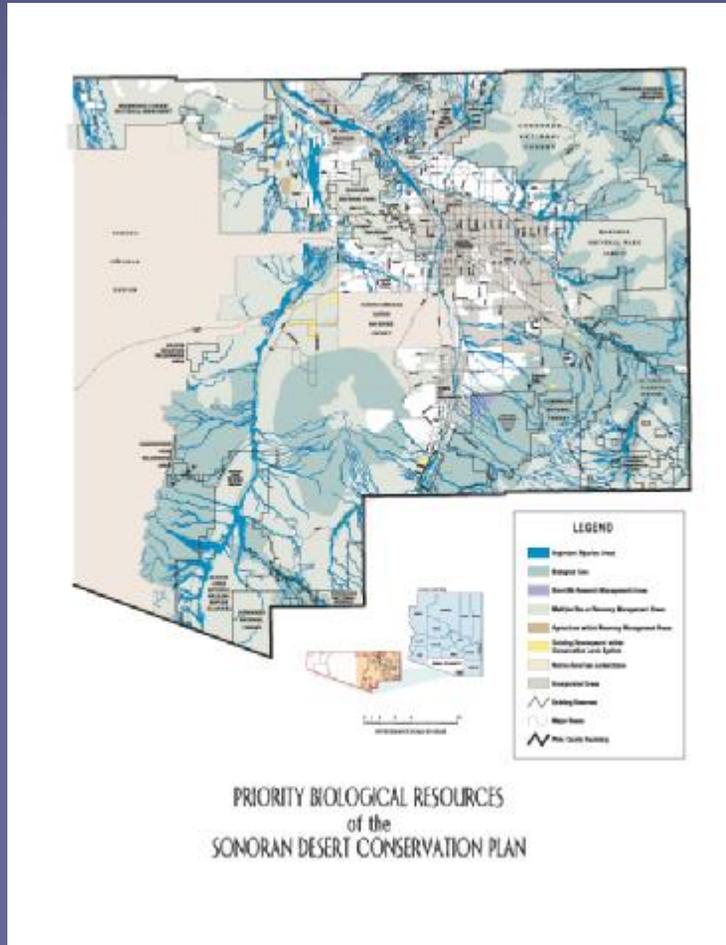


NEBRASKA NATURAL LEGACY PROJECT

TNC Ecoregional Plans



Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

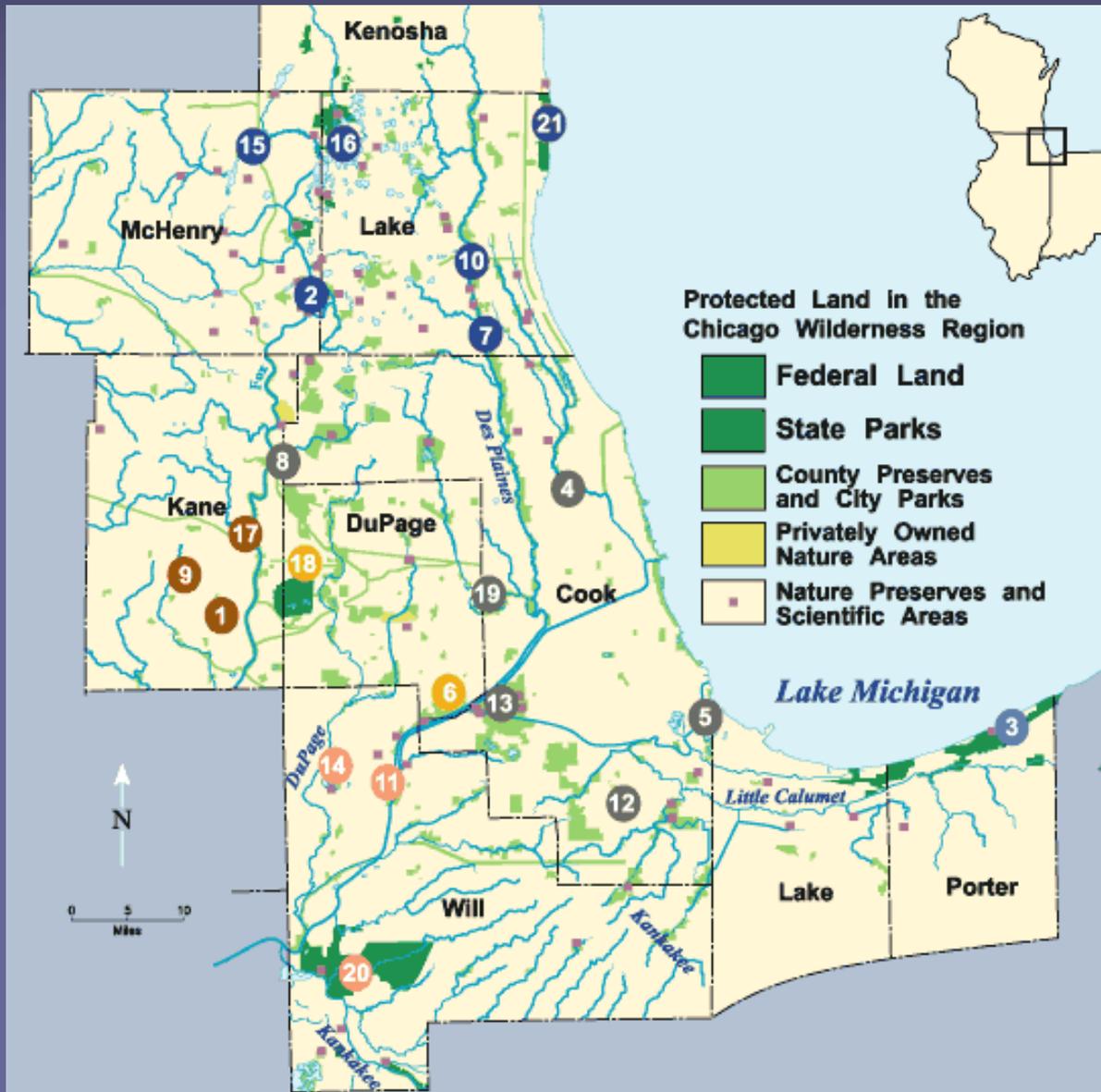


Major elements:

- *Critical Habitat & Biological corridors*
- *Riparian Protection*
- *Ranch Conservation*
- *Mountain Parks*
- *Cultural Resources*

Incorporated conservation plan into comprehensive plan

Chicago Wilderness

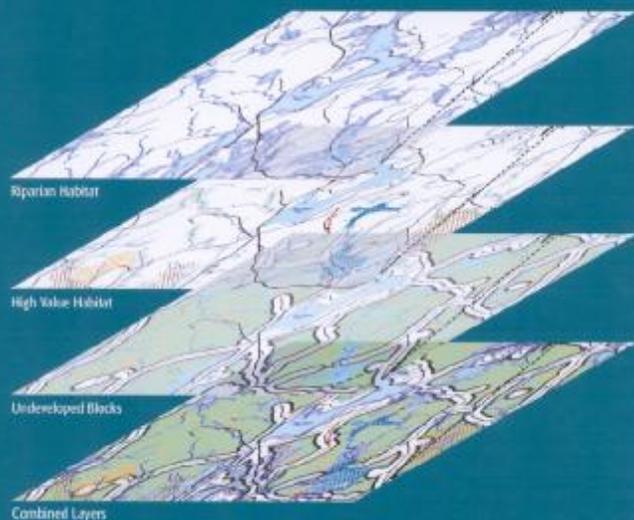


Maine Beginning with Habitat



What do you want your town to look like in 50 years?

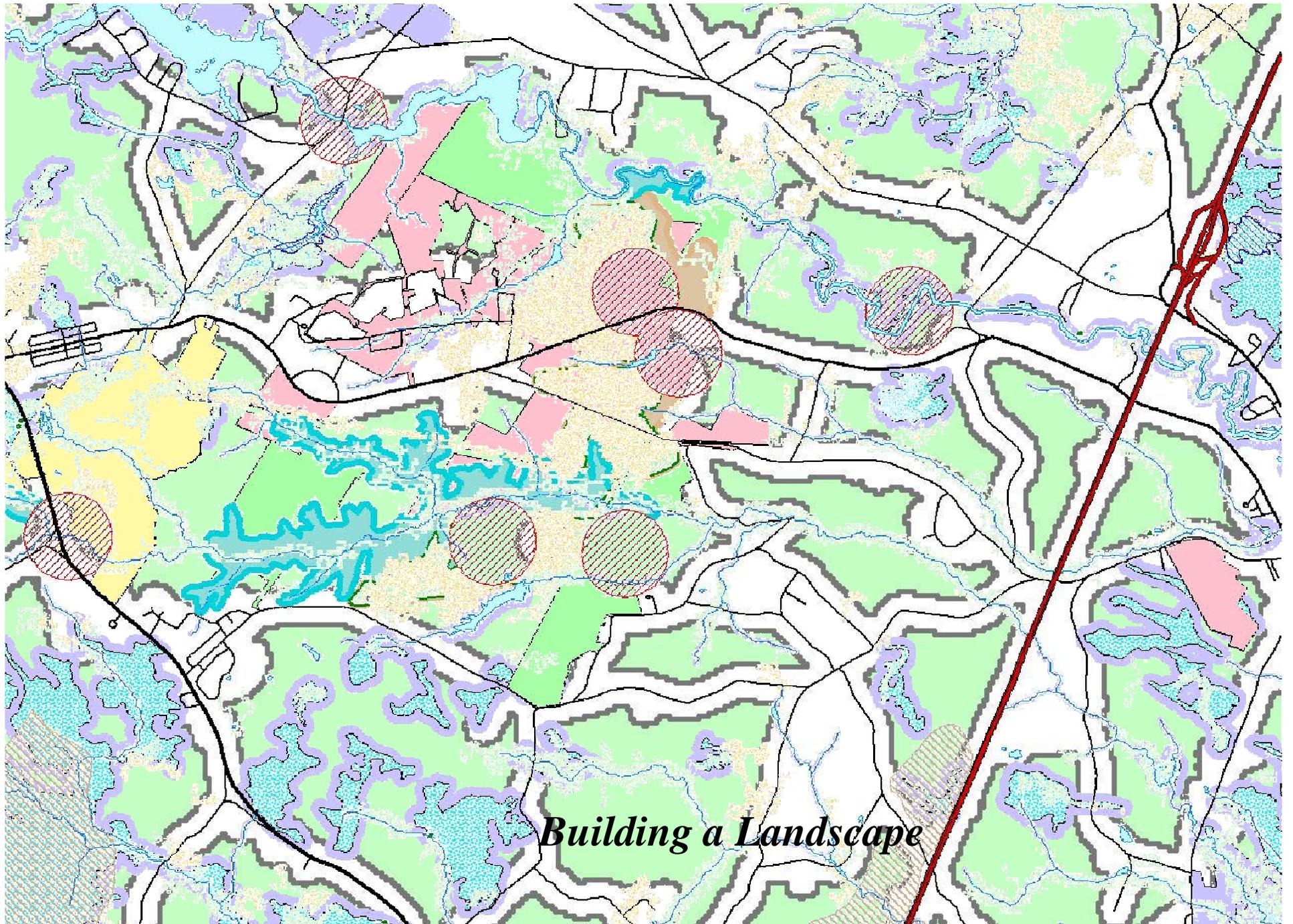
To ensure a rich complement of plants and animals, which are so important to many Maine communities, we must find ways to conserve wetland and riparian areas, plant and animal habitats, and large habitat blocks, weaving them together in a landscape tapestry. **There are many ways your town can use the plant and wildlife habitat data on these maps:** You can use it for land use planning; to inform and direct land protection initiatives; to develop joint conservation strategies with neighboring towns; and for outreach and education.



GOAL

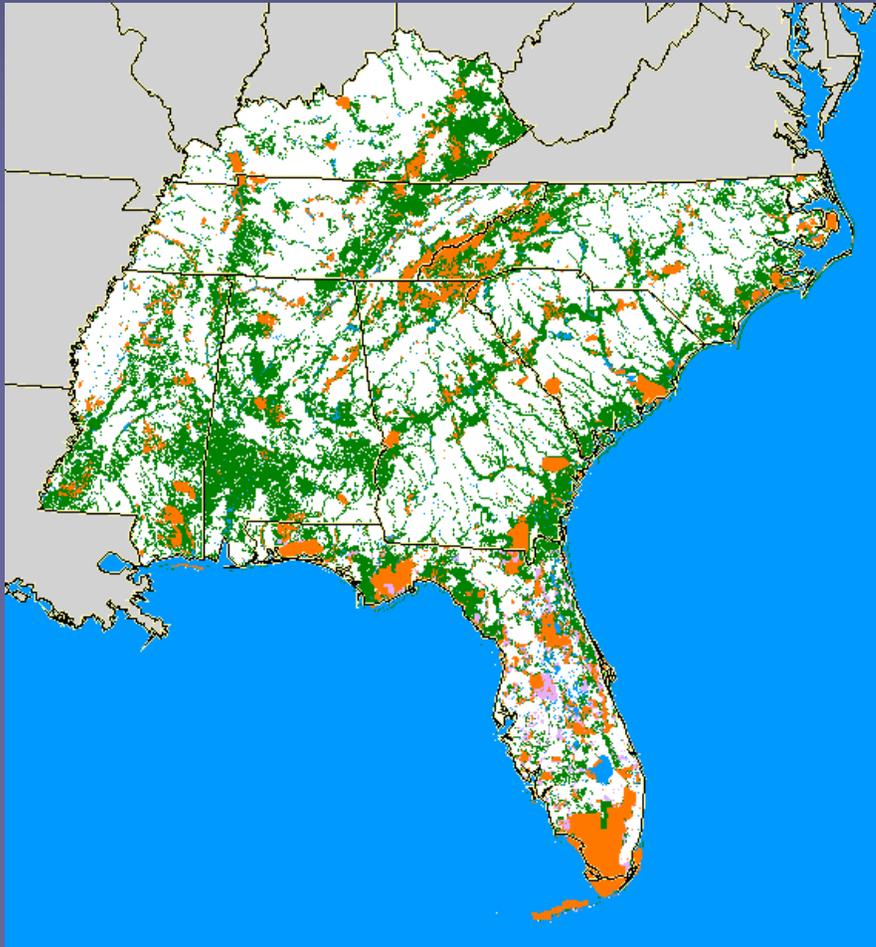
To provide municipal officials, land trusts, and other conservation organizations with the most up-to-date wildlife and plant habitat information available for use in open space, conservation, and comprehensive planning efforts.

www.beginningwithhabitat.org



Building a Landscape

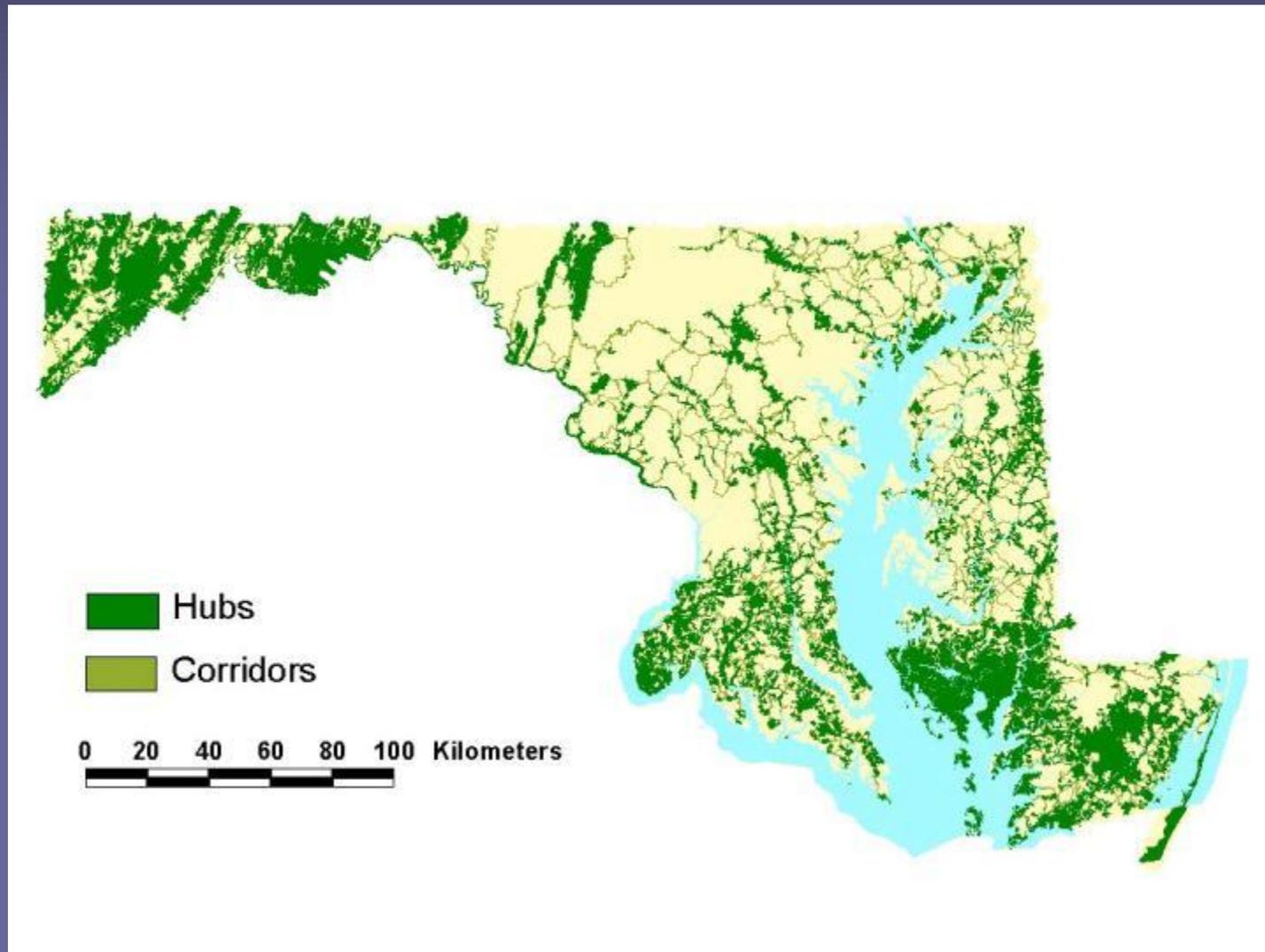
Environmental Planning



Southeast Ecological Framework

- *EPA Region 4*
- *Regional conservation strategy*
- *43% of land area across 8 states*
- *Emphasis on connectivity*

Maryland GreenPrint



Source: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Principles of Habitat Conservation

- n Protect quality sites first*
- n Restore strategically*
- n Connect fragmented parcels*
- n Large sites better*
- n Native habitats*
- n Terrestrial and aquatic systems*
- n Link reserves and working landscapes*

Conservation Planning Principles

- n Plans should be spatial***
- n Plans should address landscape context (i.e. ecological processes)***
- n Plans should work at different scales***
- n Plans should be habitat-based***

Overall Trends in Conservation Plans

- n Do not identify majority of landscape (25-40%)*
- n Rely heavily on existing protected areas*
- n Do identify private lands where necessary*
- n Improvements in landscape analysis, addressing a wider suite of species and habitats*
- n Plans are not expensive to produce (~\$1 million)*
- n Response to habitat loss caused by sprawl*

Transportation Needs

- n Maps of where and where not to build*
- n Access to information*
- n Current information*
- n Documentation to make and defend decisions*
- n Working relationship with resource agencies*
- n To save time and money*

Conclusions

- n Roads are a problem for wildlife***
- n ESA implementation will continue to be controversial***
- n Need to plan better for roads, related infrastructure and a wider suite of species and habitats***
- n All states have the information and tools to do spatial conservation plans***
- n SWAPs are the latest innovation in planning. Some attempt to synthesize existing conservation planning and provide a framework to build upon***

For more information on conservation plans:

www.defenders.org/statewildlifeplans

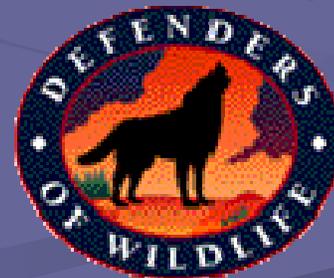
www.biodiversitypartners.org

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Defenders of Wildlife, May 2006